

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magnetic recording medium comprising at least a soft magnetic layer, an orientation control film that controls the orientation of a film provided directly thereabove, an intermediate film, a perpendicular magnetic recording film of which the axis of easy magnetization is generally oriented perpendicular to a non-magnetic substrate, and a protective film, that are provided on said substrate, wherein the intermediate film has saturation magnetization  $M_s$  of at least 20 (emu/cc) and equal to or less than 200 (emu/cc), a method of manufacture thereof, and a magnetic read/write apparatus.